City Clerk

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City Clerk's Office
INDUSTRY INTELLIGENCE INTEGRITY
Toronto

December 6th, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President Toronto University,
Toronto.

Dear Sir,-

I beg to forward herewith an extract from Report No. 31 of the Board of Control, re Royal Astronomical Society - New Observatory, which was adopted by the City Council at its meeting held on the 4th instant, as follows:-

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—NEW OBSERVATORY.

The Board recommend the adoption of the appended report submitted by the Commissioner of Parks, City Solicitor, Assessment Commissioner and Commissioner of Finance *re* the above, viz.:

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the meeting of your Board, held on July 3rd last:

"The Royal Astronomical Society is asking that the City shall dedicate the property situate on the east side of Bathurst Street, north of St. Clair Avenue, in the Township of York, purchased by the City for hospital purposes, as a public park, and that a portion of the said property, approximately three acres, shall be leased for a nominal sum to a Board of Trustees of the Astronomical Society, the projected observatory to be erected on the site in question.

"Ordered: That the application and memorandum of proposed agreement be referred to the Commissioner of Finance, the Commissioner of Parks, City Solicitor and the Assessment Commissioner, for consideration, and a recommendation in relation thereto, after conference with committee representing the Astronomical Society."

Sir Robert Falconer,

In accordance with the foregoing order your officials have met, in conference with the Committee representing the Royal Astronomical Society, and beg to recommend as follows:

1. The City shall dedicate the property as shewn on plan herewith, as a park for the citizens.

2. The north-easterly portion, comprising approximately three acres, shall be leased for one dollar per year, to a Board of Trustees, composed of the Mayor of the City, the President of the University, and the President of the Royal Astronomical Society, the lease to run for forty-two years, and thereafter to be perpetually renewable for twenty-one-year periods at the same rate.

3. This Board shall facilitate the erection thereon within ten years of an astronomical observatory, according to plans which shall be approved by the City Architect and the Commissioner of Parks.

4. Should the land and buildings cease to be occupied by the Royal Astronomical Society and the University of Toronto for the purposes specified the same, together with all improvements, shall thereupon revert to and become the property of the City without any cost or charges, and may be used by it for such purposes as may then be determined.

5. The City shall maintain the park, and also any portion of the site allotted to the observatory which is not in actual use for the purposes of the observatory, the citizens being allowed the use of the unoccupied portion on the same conditions as obtain for the rest of the park.

6. No fences shall be erected upon the property, and no physical change shall be made thereto without first having obtained the consent of the City.

7. The University shall maintain the observatory. The government of it shall be vested in a Board of Management, consisting of seven members. The professor of astronomy in the University shall be, ex officio, the chairman of this Board, and three members shall be nominated annually by the Board of Governors of the University, two by the Council of the Astronomical Society, and one by the City.

8. The citizens shall be admitted to the observatory on conditions to be approved from time to time by the Board of Management.

9. The Royal Astronomical Society shall be provided with accommodation for its library, and for the storage of its instruments in the building.

10. The Society shall maintain the library, and shall allow the citizens to use it on conditions similar to those of the Toronto Public Library.

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11. The Society shall have accommodation for its regular and general meetings, and on other occasions, as approved by the Board of Management.

Your obedient servant,

City Clerk.